

**AMENDMENTS****IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of inducing low density lipoprotein receptor expression through the sole activation of extracellular-signal regulated kinase (p42/44<sup>MAPK</sup>), comprising the step of:

contacting a an HepG2-ΔRaf-1:ER cell line with a compound that activates the extracellular-signal regulated kinase, p42/44<sup>MAPK</sup>, wherein the activation of said kinase results in the induction of low density lipoprotein receptor expression, and wherein said compound induces a growth arrest in said cells.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said induction of low density lipoprotein receptor expression is independent of cell growth regulation.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the extent of said induction of low density lipoprotein receptor expression is dependent on the extent of activation of p42/44<sup>MAPK</sup>.

Claims 4-7 (canceled)